MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

145. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·20 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: The question is that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·20 lakhs under Demand XVII—Medical Department.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XVIII-Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1:30 lakhs under Demand XVIII—Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation.

***Motion* 146.**

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

146. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,027 for Direction—Ayurveda—by Rs. 1,000.

My object in moving this is to suggest the desirability of forming an advisory committee composed of eminent Ayurvedic physicians like Vaikara Mussatu to help the gentleman in charge of the Ayurvedic department. Our country is famous for its hereditary Ayurvedic physicians; and if their skill should be more usefully utilised, I think the department might become more acceptable to the people at large. It is merely to make this suggestion that I have brought forward this motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I do not press it.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 147.**

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

147. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,446 for the Ayurveda Department by Rs. 10.

I need hardly say that my object in bringing forward this motion is to place before this Council certain features regarding the work of the Ayurveda Department. Sir, we find that, for the allopathic department, a sum of Rs. 6·47 lakhs is allotted every year, while for the Ayurveda Department only Rs. 39,390 is sanctioned. I do not propose to say that the expenditure on both these departments should be the same. Allopathy pursues a system which is in vogue throughout the world. Our hospitals are 60 or 70 years old. The department is presided over by an officer of very high status—I would say, with a South Indian reputation. It may not be possible to raise the new department to the level of the allopathic department all at once. But, Sir, we have got to place certain ideals before us. Allopathy is certainly a successful

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

course of treatment. But the conditions here require that the Ayurveda system should be encouraged. The allopathic system is generally in vogue among a people who lead a life different from that of the people in Travancore. The European lives on beef and ham and apricots and champagne. We live on rice, tapioca and pickles, with perhaps a little milk or buttermilk. They have a habit of smoking cigarette; we have a habit of taking oil baths. The efficacy of the same medicine on the two races will be different. Although allopathic medicines are powerful and useful, Ayurvedic medicines are found to be in keeping with our mode of life; and that is why we find that the Ayurvedic physicians are still able to maintain their hold on the public confidence, although the allopathic and *Unani* systems have been in this land for centuries. There seems to be certainly enough virility and adaptability in the Ayurvedic system of combating diseases. No wonder that it should be so, because it is not a system which is followed by quacks or mountebanks. The torch of the Ayurvedic science has been burning for thousands of years in this land, and I need not remind the Council that for certain diseases like nervous break-down, rheumatism, typhoid fever, etc., the Ayurvedic system of treatment has been found to be very good indeed. I speak from personal experience and I believe it is the experience of almost all the gentlemen in this Council that, in regard to തിരുമ്മൽ (shampooing and massaging), the Ayurvedic treatment is very good. Now even western countries are in favour of the system being encouraged.

There is another argument which has got a very great force. If this system which has been going on for centuries is to be encouraged, who is to encourage it if not the Travancore State? The Government is doing something in the matter. But there has been no continuity of policy, no adequate allotment of funds. In other parts of India there had been religious persecutions, Mahomedan invasions and Maratha wars. But on account of the martial qualities of the people here, the sagacity of their statesmen, the friendship of the British arm and the blessings of Sri Padmanabha, we have been spared those trying situations. The result is that in our State the Hindu arts and sciences are still preserved in their original purity. Our Maha Raja is a reputed patron of the Ayurveda Sastra. One can surely understand the step-motherly eyes the Government turn towards this useful department, as if the Government were not satisfied with the merits of this system. But it is too late in the day to come to such a conclusion. Therefore the only course is to improve the Ayurveda system of treatment. When an allopathic doctor is called in to see a patient, he can afford to put on costly clothes of the latest fashion and command phaetons or motor cars. He has a fat pay and a corresponding value attaches to his prestige and enables him to obtain a good fee. But take the case of your grant-in-aid Ayurvedic physician. He gets but fifteen or twenty rupees a month from the Government, he has to be satisfied with his loin cloth and towel, and he has

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almost always to walk miles and miles, in company with his wants and difficulties, frequently within sight of starvation. To all eyes, he is a humble individual, a dependent to be patronised rather than a professional man to be honoured. His fee consequently descends to a low scale—often a few fanams and sometimes a few chackrams. This, Sir, is a bad arrangement reflecting discredit upon the Government, besides spoiling the chances of efficient medical treatment. If Government are convinced that Ayurveda is a safe and useful system—and I am sure they are more than convinced—they should bestir themselves to remove these glaring defects. And I hope I shall be echoing the verdict of this House when I say that justice, policy, wisdom, and statesmanship—all these require that the Ayurvedic system should be given proper encouragement.

In this connection, I may be permitted to mention that in America and other western countries—and I gather this fact from books of great authority—homeopathy has made great progress. And I also learn that in Calcutta and other Indian cities that system is no less popular than allopathy. That question is not specifically before the Council. I would, on this occasion, merely advance the claims of Ayurveda. If that ancient system of efficient treatment is not adequately encouraged in this State presided over by one of the most experienced and enlightened Maha Rajas, I am unable to look forward to any prince or potentate, any Government or political or scientific organisation, that will have the interest and the ability to encourage this divine Ayurveda, our proud inheritance from the ancient sages of Bharatavarsha. With these words, I commend the matter to this House for its careful consideration.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The policy of Government has been to encourage the Ayurveda system. Till 7 or 8 years ago, we had only a nucleus of the system; and it has since developed into a department. And we have now budgeted for Rs. 39,000 or Rs. 40,000. That is, in 7 or 8 years, Government have been able to allot nearly Rs. 40,000 for the department. But the Medical Department has been in existence for over 50 years and it took all this time for it to get Rs. 6 lakhs. We can, in course of time, improve the Ayurveda system and expand its usefulness gradually. I have nothing more to say. I do not think that Mr. Velu Pillai seriously proposes to press his motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I thank the Chief Secretary for the promise that he has made; but I think that the promise is not definite. If that be an assurance, I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: What is the definite promise you require?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: In so far as I have been able to understand the words of the Chief Secretary and also the Dewan on this subject to be in favour of my proposal, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

PRESIDENT: The question is that the Government be granted a sum not exeeding Rs. 1.30 lakhs under Demand XVIII—Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation.

The motion was carried and the grant made.

Demand XIX—Stationery and Printing.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3.69 lakhs under Demand XIX—Stationery and Printing.

***Motion* 148.**

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

148. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs for cost of stationery for public departments by Rs. 1,000.

There is a general and widespread impression that there is a good deal of avoidable waste in the Stationery Department of the Government. One aspect of it which is patent to all of us is the Sirkar Gazette. We find that a lot of superfluous matter is appearing in the Gazette which could very well be avoided by some rearrangement.

In the first place there is a good deal of duplication going on. Government proceedings and other matter are being printed in English and then in Malayalam and also in Tamil. I wish to know whether it is not possible to print the Gazette in three separate parts, and to give to subscribers only the parts which they desire, with an undertaking that if the number of copies—say, in Tamil—diminish below one hundred, the Tamil edition will not be printed. There must be an obligatory edition in English. But, somehow or other, many of us do not stand in need of the same matter both in English and in Malayalam, for, when we read through the English proceedings, we do not read it in Malayalam also. If this duplication could be removed, a good deal of waste would be avoided. Again, we find the articles and memoranda of association of co-operative societies printed in the Gazette. I am told that, according to the law on the subject, it is obligatory that those regulations should be published in every one of the issues of the Gazette up to a certain time, and that it would be a very difficult matter to avoid this. In every issue of the Gazette, a lot of space is taken up with the publication of these rules; but I am assured that not a single soul finds the use of these rules and regulations. And then again, we find the proceedings of Municipal Councils and other such matters of local interest in the Gazette. Local sheets may be added and some abridged matter may be published in the Gazette, if necessary. Departmental sheets should also be regularised, so that waste may be avoided and a lot of space saved in the Gazette. Once a competent person looks carefully into the subject, I am sure that there will be found several directions in which economy may be achieved.

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